THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (*SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY*): (a) The Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper Employees had published the tentative proposals in August, 1988 and have received comments in this regard. The Boards have given hearing to the employees and employers on these proposals. The Wage Boards are holding meetings so as to progress their work to finalisation.

(b) The terms of the Chairman and the staff of the Wage Boards has been further extended to 31-3-89. The Boards regulate their own procedure in connection with their work.

(c) Government can announce decision only after the Wage Boards have submitted their reports, and after Government has considered these.

Failure of Agricultural Research and Development Programme

298. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various seeds sapling have been put under Open General License as appeared in the 'Economic Times' of 14-1-1989 largely due to failure of Agriculture R and D, and National Seeds Corporation in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that similar situation exists in case of milk and fish production due to failure of R and D units and agencies such as National Dairy Development Board; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the situation and save the country and economy and also help nutrition of the population by helping in growth and progress of Dairy Development and Fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The import of some of the identified categories of seeds/planting materials have been allowed in Open General Licence with a view to providing to the Indian farmer the best planting material available in the world to increase productivity, farm income and also export earnings of the country.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such situation in the case of milk or fish production.

(c) The Government has been reviewing the position in this regard from time to time. It has taken up suitable development programmes with a view to increasing the supply of quality seeds and planting material to the farmers. Operation Flood and other dairy development programmes as well as various inland and marine fisheries development programme are being implemented with the objective of meeting the nutritional requirements of the population. Significant increase has been achieved both in case of milk as well as fish production.

Control of Heliothis Disease of Cotton by Integrated Pest Management

299 SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heliothis disease of cotton finally has been contained in Andhra Pradesh through use of pesticides or any other methods such as Integrated Pest Management;

(b) whether Government are aware that similar outbreaks in South America were controlled using integrated pest management; and

(c) whether Government propose to send farmers from A.P. and R and D Scientists abroad to study these methods?